

**Amendment to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of claims**

1. (Previously Presented) A method for the preparation of a modified carrier for a catalyst to be used for the vapor phase epoxidation of alkene, comprising:

- a) impregnating a preformed alpha-alumina carrier, wherein said preformed carrier comprises particles which have at least one substantially flat major surface having a lamellate or platelet morphology and wherein said carrier has been subjected to calcining and, optionally, other preforming treatments, as part of the preforming process, with at least one modifier selected from among alkali metal silicates and alkaline earth metal silicates;
- b) drying said impregnated carrier; and
- c) calcining said dried carrier to react the modifier with a surface of the alpha-alumina.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said modifier is selected from a group consisting of sodium silicates, lithium silicates and potassium silicates or mixtures thereof.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said modifier is a sodium silicate with stoichiometry,  $\text{Na}_2\text{O} \cdot 2.6\text{SiO}_2$ .

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said drying is carried out at a temperature not exceeding about 250 degrees C. for at least the first two hours following said impregnation.

5. (Previously Presented) A method for the preparation of a catalyst to be used for the vapor phase epoxidation of alkene, comprising:

- a) impregnating a preformed alpha-alumina carrier, wherein said preformed carrier comprises particles which have at least one substantially flat major surface having a lamellate or platelet morphology and wherein said carrier has been subjected to

calcining and, optionally, other preforming treatments, as part of the preforming process, with at least one modifier selected from among alkali metal silicates and alkaline earth metal silicates;

b) drying said impregnated carrier;

c) calcining said dried carrier to react the modifier with a surface of the alpha-alumina; and

d) depositing silver catalytic material on said dried calcined carrier.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 further comprising depositing at least one efficiency enhancing promoter on said dried calcined carrier.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein said efficiency enhancing promoter is selected from a group consisting of at least one alkali metal, alkaline earth metal or oxyanion of an element, other than oxygen, having an atomic number of 5 to 83 and being selected from groups 3b through 7b and 3a through 7a of the Periodic Table.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the said efficiency enhancing promoter is a salt of a member of a redox-half reaction pair.

9. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein said efficiency enhancing promoter is a rhenium component.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 or 5 where in said alkene is ethylene.

11. – 12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the preformed alpha-alumina carrier comprises alumina having at least 95% by weight alpha-alumina and a surface area of at least about 0.5 m<sup>2</sup>/g, a pore volume of at least about 0.5 cc/g, and a median pore diameter between about 1 to 25 microns.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the modifier is a sodium silicate with stoichiometry, Na<sub>2</sub>O-2.6SiO<sub>2</sub>.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1 or 13 wherein said modified carrier is washed after calcination.

16.-105. (Cancelled)